

# MNADE NEWSLETTER

Early Spring 2006

## ***A Word from our President***

--Kathy Wellington

Early spring greetings to all! With the change of seasons comes anticipation of new initiatives, including MNADE's First Annual Regional Meetings. To occur in the northern, southern and central regions of the state the first full week in April, these gatherings will provide rich opportunity for informal conversation at a convenient location. We hope many of you will participate. For details about the northern meeting, check the information at the end of this newsletter. We're also looking forward to the chance to catch up with colleagues in anticipation of our annual conference, well into its planning stages.

To be held at scenic Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids on September 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, next fall's "year-of-the-student" annual conference will focus on the theme, "Finding the Pulse: Reading the Student." We're excited that three student-centered, knowledgeable and experienced administrators representing the technical and community colleges as well as the state universities will be joining us to stimulate exchanges about who our increasingly diverse students are and how best to address their unique learning needs. Please look for the call for proposals in this newsletter and make a submission according to the posted guidelines by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. We hope you will help us explore a variety of perspectives at the conference. In addition to current applied research ideas and model practices in the disciplines of reading, writing, math, and study skills, we anticipate learning about students from different language, cultural and learning style backgrounds and about such initiatives as first year as well as academic advising programs. Without a

doubt, there are countless topics, including those not mentioned, that would enhance our insights at September's annual MNADE "year-of-the-student" conference. Please let us hear from you through your program submissions.

Also know that as your president this year, I welcome conversation about MNADE . Though I will be going on sabbatical for a year starting in May, 2006, I may still be reached at my university e-mail: [Kathy.wellington@metrostate.edu](mailto:Kathy.wellington@metrostate.edu). Looking forward to your participation in the upcoming spring/fall MNADE events.



## ***Sharon's Simple Study Strategies for College Success***

--Book Review by Cheryl Hartman

For several semesters, I taught a freshman class called Introduction to College Studies. In the class, students learned strategies for succeeding in college while discovered their unique personalities and related careers and educational programs. What had prompted our college to start offering this course was the number of students we were losing who were unprepared to do college work, who were unprepared to commit to the time involved in studying, and who did not know how to approach the rigors of college. Having worked with students who are just starting their college careers, many with fear and anxiety, it was a delight to pick up Sharon Green's small, readable,

engaging book *Sharon's Simple Study Strategies for College Success*.

In today's society, where quick bites of information are more appealing than lengthy tomes, Green's small chunks of information appeal to the current college student. The book is concise and accessible. Each page has its own bold titles that make the book easy to peruse for the appropriate topic. And each topic is quickly addressed in two or three short paragraphs.

Green uses the "you" point of view, so that the reader feels that he or she is having a personal conversation with an advisor. For new students or for students who have been unsuccessful in the past, this conversational style both allays fears and provides helpful success tips. As an example, the "Dump It Out" suggestion advises the student, when faced with a test, to quickly jot down any facts, formulas, and mnemonics memorized for the test before even looking at the test questions. That way vital information is recorded before reading questions that may confuse. This simple but effective suggestion will help any student who reads this book.

As the chair of the Liberal Arts department that offers classes from biology to literature, I receive many sample books from publishers. But *Simple Study Strategies for College Success* is one I keep handy on my shelf. It is appealing, and its small size makes it easy to carry and reference. It can fit anywhere and is a practical, manageable resource for students tackling college.

Book Title: *Sharon's Simple Study Strategies for College Success*  
Author: Sharon Green

Publisher: Whittier Publications, Inc.,  
2004



## **MNADE Board Gets the Readiness Word Out**

--Linda Russell

Several members of the MNADE executive board have presented nationally and regionally on our College Readiness Brochure. We have gotten enthusiastic responses from our participants, and we now need to explore other ways to publicize it to a wider audience.

One idea we received from an MCTC faculty member is to publish short articles about the brochure in local ethnic newspapers, specialty publications for families and other groups, and general free local newspapers. What a great idea that we could all try in our own communities!

What follows is my original generic piece. It could be expanded to describe some of the differences between high school and college or edited to fit a certain age group or type of group. Please feel free to use it in your local publications as you see fit.

Note that members of the board have agreed to form a speaker's bureau of sorts, so that if a group would like someone to come and talk about college readiness, we will arrange it. Perhaps you could offer to create such a group in your neck of Minnesota.

## **Get Ready for College: Start Early!**

Are you preparing to go to college? Would you like to know what to expect when you get there? We would like to help you

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become more familiar with the demands that college brings, and we'd like you to be well prepared for the experience. We have created a short brochure which is available free of charge in English, Spanish, Hmong (and soon, Somali) on our website, [www.mnade.org](http://www.mnade.org).

The members of the Minnesota Association for Developmental Education (MNADE) represent college educators from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities as well as the University of Minnesota. We have created the brochure to identify the major differences between high school and college. It also offers suggestions for students as they prepare for their college experience. We want to share this brochure with students, teachers, counselors, community groups, and families. Even students as young as 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade can be planning and preparing for a successful college career.

It doesn't matter if you plan to attend a technical college, a community college, or a four year university; you still must understand the expectations that college courses (and teachers) will have for you. If you would like a member of MNADE to speak with your community or school group, please contact our president at the web site listed above. We are happy to help you become more informed and ready to reach your college and career goals.

## ***Spring Regional Meetings***

We hope you can attend one of the first ever spring regional MNADE/CRLA meetings. Here are the pertinent facts:

Moorhead: Vicky Williams: facilitator  
Bennigan's Restaurant  
Friday, April 7 from 4-8 pm

Mankato: Gael Mericle: facilitator  
Minnesota State University Mankato  
campus, Center for Academic Success  
(lower level of the library in ML 116)  
Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-3

Metro Area: Patty Wheeler Andrews:  
facilitator  
Muffuletta (2260 Como Ave, St. Paul)  
Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-8:30  
Please RSVP to Patty ([patty.wheeler-andrews@anokaramsey.edu](mailto:patty.wheeler-andrews@anokaramsey.edu))



Minnesota Association for  
Developmental Education  
Thirteenth Annual Conference  
September 28-29, 2006  
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

## **Finding the Pulse: Reading the Student**

### **CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS**

The Executive Board of MNADE invites proposals for one-hour sessions on the multitude of issues surrounding the continuation of courses, programs, and support services targeting student success in college. This year's conference theme, "Finding the Pulse: Reading the Student," offers the opportunity to explore the many dimensions of our increasingly diverse students and the challenges they face in our institutions. Who are our students who lack the requisite reading, writing, math, study and language competencies to succeed? What effect do struggling students have on faculty, curriculum, budgets and services? How can we use our insights to better address individual learning needs? A panel of experienced, knowledgeable administrators representing the diverse perspectives of the technical and community colleges as well as the state universities will begin our exploration.

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We look forward to updating our understanding of relevant research, of effective practices, policies and early intervention initiatives which target the increasingly diverse student populations we serve. We encourage you and your colleagues to propose a session for this “year-of –the-student” conference.

Proposals should include names of presenters, a primary contact person (including phone, address, and e-mail), session title, a brief description of the proposed presentation (250 words maximum), and short two-three sentence presenter biographies suitable for submission in the conference program. Please indicate your audiovisual needs; overhead projectors will be available, and other equipment may be arranged or rented.

Send to:  
Mary Thurow, MNADE President-Elect  
[mary.thurow@minneapolis.edu](mailto:mary.thurow@minneapolis.edu)  
2435-34th Ave S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-1426

**Due date: June 1, 2006**

Members will receive other conference details later in May 2006 through the newsletter and the listserv. For more MNADE information, visit our website at [www.mnade.org](http://www.mnade.org). For information about Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge, go to [www.sugarlakeridge.com](http://www.sugarlakeridge.com).

